Private sector in National Highways and Expressways

*229. SHRI G.G. SWELL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the terms offered to private sector in allowing them in a big way to invest in National Highways and Expressways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the envisaged investment in the private sector in Highways and Expressways;

(d) what is the length to be covered by the above proposals; and

(e) what is going to be the toll rates on private sector Highways and Expressways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) In view of the constraint of budgetary resource, the Government is contemplating to invite private sector participation for development of National Highways and Expressways. Under the scheme, private companies including foreign investors will be encouraged to develop highway facility from their own resources and will be granted permission to collect fees from the users for a specified period whereafter the facilities will revert to the Government. These proposals are to be undertaken within the broad policy framework of economic liberalisation of the Government of India. National Highway Act, 1956 is proposed to be amended to permit such private sector participation.

(c) to (e) It is too early to indicate details regarding envisaged investment in the private sector, the length to be covered and the toll rates that would be levied on such Highways and Expressways.

Investments in processing sector

*230. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign investment, proposals for which have been received so far in the food processing sector;

(b) what is the country's total investment in this sector; and

(c) the details of investment which Indian companies have made in foreign countries in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) During the post-liberalisation period, total foreign investment of Rs. 2528 crores and total investment of over Rs. 7679 crores have been approved so far in the various sectors of food processing. Also 3046 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda (IEMS) envisaging an investment of over Rs. 38409 crores have been filed during the same period uptil Feb.'95.

Food processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sector. The estimated investment in the sector in the country is Rs. 28,500 crores. The investment by Indian companies abroad in this sector at present is marginal, but some Indian companies are also looking for opportunities of investment abroad.

Communications Agreements with UK

*231. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of his recent visit to United Kingdom;

(b) whether it is a fact that some agreements were reached between